stated that there was no question of the Pakistani authorities handing over any Pakistani national to India. As regards the presence in Pakistan, of the non-Pakistan nationals who figure on the list, the President sought to obfuscate the issue by commenting that Pakistan had not given asylum to any such person.

Other comments from Pakistani spokesmen, essentially as a delaying tactic, have suggested that the issue could be handled after the two countries conclude an extradition treaty when talks are resumed.

Killing of Security personnel in West Bengal

848.SHRIAMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bangladesh-based faction of the Harkat-ul-Jehad-e-Islami is reportedly involved in the killing of Security personnel of the West Bengal on the American Centre in Kolkata;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the matter was taken up with the Government of Bangladesh; and

(d) if so, with what result?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (d) On January 22, 2002 the Kolkata Police force personnel guarding the American Centre in Kolkata were fired at by armed terrorists. The matter is still under investigation.

Passport Scandal in Houston Consulate

849. DR.ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:
SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Passport Scandal in Houston Consulate" appearing in the Hindustan Times on the 21st January, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;